



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 12, 2005**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*NOTE: Today's indictment, as well as audio comments from U.S. Attorney Todd Graves, will be available to download from the district's Web site at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)*

## **KANSAS WOMAN INDICTED FOR KIDNAPPING RESULTING IN DEATH**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Melvern, Kan., woman was indicted by a federal grand jury today for kidnapping a female infant, resulting in the death of the infant's mother.

**Lisa M. Montgomery**, 36, of Melvern, was charged by a federal grand jury with kidnapping Victoria Jo Stinnett and taking her across the state line from Skidmore, Mo., to Melvern. According to the indictment, **Montgomery's** actions resulted in the death of Bobbie Jo Stinnett, the baby's mother.

The federal indictment alleges that **Montgomery** strangled Bobbie Jo Stinnett with a rope and then used a kitchen knife to cut her infant daughter from her womb. At the time of her death, the indictment says, Bobbie Jo Stinnett was eight months pregnant.

Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **Montgomery** on Dec. 17, 2004. **Montgomery's** initial court appearance and arraignment have not yet been scheduled.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Todd P. Graves, First Assistant U.S. Attorney Roseann Ketchmark, Deputy U.S. Attorney Matt J. Whitworth, Assistant U.S. Attorney

Cynthia Phillips, and Nodaway County, Mo., Prosecuting Attorney David Baird (serving as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney). It was investigated by the Nodaway County, Mo., Sheriff's Department; the Maryville, Mo., Department of Public Safety; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Missouri State Highway Patrol; the Atchison County, Mo., Sheriff's Department; the St. Joseph, Mo., Police Department; the Northwest Missouri Major Case Squad; and the Cameron, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)